It was also suggested that the Secretary's report should be as brief as possible and only touch on the salient features of the Development of Archives in the country. Prof. O.P.Bhatnagar moved a resolution on the Secretary's report, which was approved, but it was felt that since this was a substantial resolution it should follow the adoption of the report. The House thereupon adopted the Secretary's report, after which Prof. Bhatnagar's Resolution was passed.

> Resolution III. The Indian Historical Records Commission places on record its appreciation of the steps taken by the National Archives of India during the last two years for expediting the compilation of reference media to the various series of the records in its custody. But, as the volume of records for which the reference media has to be prepared is very large, the Government of India is urged to sanction adequate staff for this essential aspect of archives administration. Similar programmes may be taken up by State Archives Departments also which face the same problem.

4. Review of action taken on the previous resolutions of the Commission

The report of the Secretary on the subject (vide conspectus at pp.79-122) was taken up for discussion.

Resolutions of the 37th Session, 1966

With reference to Resolution II dealing with prevention of migration of archives and other materials of historical and cultural value to foreign countries, the members wanted to know the reasons for the delay in the introduction of the necessary legislation in this behalf.

Dr. Prasad informed the Members that the matter was under the active consideration of the Government. Dr. H. L. Gupta wanted to know if "records" could be included among "antiquities". The Chairman explained that this was being considered by the Law Ministry. Shri S. Singarajan wanted that a Committee should be set up in each State to prevent the migration of records.

Resolutions of the 38th Session, 1967

With reference to Resolution V regarding liberalisation of rules governing access to records, Prof. H. L. Gupta pointed out that the State Governments were too conservative in their policy of scrutiny of excerpts taken by accredited scholars from their records. Reference was particularly made to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Shri S. Singarajan, Director, Tamil Nadu Archives, stated that the position had been stated correctly, and suggested that the Chairman might use his good offices with the State Governments for the liberalisation of rules. The Chairman promised to do so. Dr. Gopal Krishna wanted to know the position in other States. The Chairman suggested that the Secretary of the Commission might collect complete information from all the State Archives Departments with regard to their Research Rules, and supply the same to the members within a period of three months.

On Resolution IX regarding Family Papers of former Orissa Princes, the Chairman informed the members that he had already tried with a few ex-rulers of Orissa, but has not yet succeeded. He would try to negotiate with them further.

Regarding Resolution X on records with Business Houses, Dr. Gopal Krishna wanted to know if any further progress was made. The Secretary informed that the matter was being pursued with the parties concerned. The Chairman felt that planned action in such a matter was rather difficult, but the efforts should be continued.

With reference to Resolution XI regarding provision of more funds for Regional Records Survey Committees, Shri S. Singarajan stated that the Commission's resolutions being only recommendatory, it would be better if the Chairman could use his good offices to pursuade the State Governments to place adequate funds at the disposal of the Regional Records Survey Committees. The Chairman promised to consider what could be done.

Regarding Resolution XIV on University Archives, the Secretary, Dr. S.N. Prasad, informed that in addition to what had been reported, Aligarh University had also set up an Archives Cell manned by a qualified Archivist.

Resolutions of the 39th Session, 1968

With reference to Resolution VI regarding documents of Indian interest in West-Asia, the Secretary informed that further information was being collected about the records of Indian interest in West Asia. Shri F.M. Hassnain suggested that if a few State Directors of Archives could go to Russia along with the Director, National Archives of India, in connection with the forthcoming International Congress on Archives being held in Moscow in 1972, this team could locate more records of Indian interest in that country.

Dr. Prasad stated that National Archives of India had already acquired under an earlier Indo-Soviet Cultural Programme a few rolls of microfilm copies of records available in the Central Archives, U.S.S.R., etc.

The Chairman, thereupon, informed that the eight volumes of the catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in the Institute of Oriental Studies, Tashkent, were available with the Aligarh University. However, so far as he was aware, there were no records of Indian interest in Tashkent. Some documents were available in Armenia. Quite a few reports of the then British Agent-at-Cairo now in the P.R.O., London, also had relevance to these records.

Dr. H. L. Gupta referred to the discussion regarding transfer of Residency records with the various State Archives to the National Archives of India, and pointed out that some of these were still lying at Nagpur. The Chairman suggested that members of the Commission should send a report to the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission on the Residency records which might be still lying with the States.

Resolutions of the 40th Session, 1970

With reference to Resolution II regarding access to the old records of the State Bank of India, Dr. S. N. Prasad further informed the members that delay in throwing open the non-current records of the State Bank of India was due to the fact that these were presently being used for the compilation of the Bank's history. Efforts to implement the Resolution would continue.

On Resolution III regarding the setting up of a Standing Committee of the Commission, in the discussion that followed, Dr. P. L. Mehra reiterated the necessity and urgency of having a Standing Committee of the Commission. The Chairman stated that the financial implications and other aspects of the proposal would be studied and suitable action would be taken.

In the discussion on the action taken on Resolution IV regarding Development of Archives, Dr. Gopal Krishna suggested that, in addition to photo-duplication and microfilming, facilities for Xerography of records should also be provided by the National Archives of India and the State Archives.

On resolution V regarding publication of documents bearing on Partition and Transfer of Power, the members felt that the National Archives of India should bring out the proposed publication on the records pertaining to Partition and Transfer of Power at the earliest, as the India Office had already brought out two volumes. The members were critical of the stand taken by the Ministry of External Affairs against throwing open the records upto 1947, particularly because the India Office had already published two volumes of the relevant records on the transfer of power. Dr. S. N. Prasad informed members that further liberalisation was under active consideration. Shri B. K. Basu, Director, Historical Division, Ministry of External Affairs, informed the Commission that his Ministry had allowed access to their records upto 1942. However, the Ministry had yet to decide about the records relating to Partition and Transfer of Power.

Decision on this be taken after consulting prominent historians. The Chairman agreed that a Committee consisting of prominent historians should be set up to suggest declassification of these records. The Director, Historical Division, and Director, National Archives of India, might take early steps in this behalf. The Chairman also suggested that, in the meantime, necessary information with regard to these records in the custody of the State Governments might also be collected by the Secretary.

In reply to the discussion on Resolution VI, regarding enactment of law on archives and implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Archival Legislation, and also on the possibility of having one archival law for the whole of India, the Chairman stated that he would study the entire problem and see what could be done. In the meantime, Archival Policy Resolution would be passed at an early date and its copies would be supplied to the State Governments for necessary action. The position should be reviewed at the next Session of the Commission. The second part of the Resolution was already implemented with the Minister being present throughout the Business Meeting.

With reference to Resolution IX, that State Archives should dispense with the scrutiny of excerpts, members regretted that most of the State Governments were not implementing the above Resolution. The Chairman remarked that under the Policy Resolution on Union Archives, rules governing access to records would be framed. He hoped that the State Governments to whom copies of the Policy Resolution would be supplied, would also agree to make necessary changes in their Historical Research Rules. If necessary, the position could be reviewed by the Commission.

On Resolution X, regarding preparation of indexes of the Portuguese and Malayalam records in English, Mrs. Padma Ramachandran, representing the Government of Kerala, informed the members that some extra staff had been appointed by the State Government to expedite the preparation of indexes to these records. Dr. Gune confirmed that the Portuguese records in Goa Archives were being indexed, though at a slow pace due to paucity of staff.

Resolution XIII, that State Governments should transfer the records relating to National Movement to the State Archives, was then taken up for discussion. The Secretary stated that, as already discussed, the rules to be framed by the States following the Policy Resolution should contain a provision to this effect.

Regarding Resolution XIV, on setting up of Mobile Microfilming Units by the National Archives of India for microfilming of private papers, the Secretary further informed the members that the National Archives of India had already taken up the expansion of the photo-duplication facilities. Efforts are being made to procure a mobile camera. Necessary staff was being provided. The question whether the microfilming service to all the Regional Records Survey Committees could be provided free, would have to be considered further.

With reference to Resolution XV, that National Archives of India should procure Annual Administration Reports published by the State Governments, Professor Sri Ram Sharma, Dr. Amba Prasad and other members reiterated the need for the National Archives of India to have the Annual Administration Reports of all the States and other bodies mentioned in the resolution.

Dr.Prasad explained the latest position. The Chairman suggested that the Director of Archives, Government of India, might prepare a list of the Reports that had started coming to the National Archives of India and might continue efforts to acquire the remaining reports also.

Resolution XVI, regarding depositing by the universities of copies of the theses for Ph.D. Degrees at the National Archives of India, then came up for discussion. The various methods which could be adopted by the Universities to implement the resolution without putting a further burden on research scholars in submitting more copies of their theses, were discussed. Dr.Prasad expressed the view that better results would follow if the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission could pursuade the more important universities to cooperate in the matter as far as possible. This was agreed to.

5. Resolutions by Members

1. Transfer of records of Viceroys and Governors to the National Archives of India and State Archives Offices

Resolution by Dr.H.L.Gupta

Resolved that, as a preliminary step to the making of Viceregal records and the records of the Governors upto 1947 available for historical research, the former be placed in the National Archives of India and the latter in the Central Record Offices of the States concerned.

Secretary's Note

As regards the Central Government, most of the Secretariat Departments which were in existence prior to Transfer of Power